



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 23, 1978

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON  
STEVE KITTRELL

## DOLE AMENDMENT TO INCREASE PUNISHMENT FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS ADOPTED

Senator Bob Dole today proposed an amendment to the Criminal Code Reform bill to ensure higher prison terms for repeat offenders. The Senate adopted the amendment which will impose substantial sentences on those persons who commit violent felonies while on release pending trial, sentencing or appeal.

The newly established United States Sentencing Commission will be compelled to set guidelines for the punishment of persons who commit crimes while on pretrial release from a charge of which they are ultimately convicted. These guidelines must direct that these criminals are given a term of imprisonment close or equal to the maximum sentence for the crime they have committed.

During Senate debate on this amendment, Senator Dole said, "the high rate of repeat offenders is substantial proof that the system of pretrial release has the undesirable effect of allowing criminals an extra opportunity to 'practice their trade.' A study by the U.S. Attorney's Office of over 500 indicted robbery defendants reported a 70% rearrest rate while on pretrial release. Serious crimes against the person are repeated at alarming rates. Up to 28% of all murders and 19% of all rapes are committed by persons on conditional release."

"The answer is not to eliminate pretrial release or institute preventive detention which would be inconsistent with the American sense of justice. Nevertheless, the American public deserves some deterrent to protect it from those identified as potential criminals but not yet formally convicted," Dole continued.

"Persons who are victimized by criminals out on bail rightly feel that the criminal justice system has failed to protect them. To the extent that punishment serves as a deterrent, my amendment would be an extra deterrent for this type of criminal. The knowledge that their time in jail would be substantially increased will give these potential repeaters an extra incentive to not commit another crime. If the warning is not heeded, society will be certain that the criminal will be treated with appropriate severity in his sentencing," Dole concluded.